

REMARKS

Claims 1,12, 14, 25, 27, 41 and 52 have been amended and claims 11, 13, 24, 26, 38, 40, 51 and 53 have been canceled. Claims 1-10, 12, 14-23, 25, 27-37, 39, 41-50 and 52 are pending in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Applicants maintain their traversal of the rejections for at least the reasons previously stated. However, to avoid the expense of prolonged prosecution, the claims have been amended. Claims 13, 26, 40 and 53 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Independent claims 1, 14, 27 and 41 have been amended to include the subject matter of claims 13, 26, 40 and 43, respectively, including the subject matter of any intervening claims (e.g., claims 11, 14, 38 and 51, respectively). As such, Applicants assert that independent claims 1, 1, 14, 27 and 41 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5681-08800/RCK.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: November 20, 2007